

**First Preliminary Amendment**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: December 29, 2009

Electronic Signature for Kristin L. Murphy: /Kristin L. Murphy/

Docket No.: 66967-0032  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Nestor R. Arrieta et al.

Application No.: 10/562,430

Confirmation No.: 3873

Filed: October 2, 2004

Art Unit: 3679

For: OUTER JOINT PART WITH SUPPORTING  
DISC

Examiner: G. J. Binda

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AFTER APPEAL FILED WITH**  
**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Decision on Appeal issued on October 29, 2009 maintaining the rejections of claims 17-31 set forth in the Final Office Action dated February 11, 2008, and in view of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.